THEN and NOW!

By Frances H. Paulette

Mrs. Mary Covington Bagby - THEN

The late Charlie Bagby - - as a very young man.

"Miss Mary . . . 75 Years In The Same House"

Driving along the winding country road, I kept remembering the words of my employer, "It's a nice old-fashioned house." I was looking for just such a house but couldn't seem to find it. Feeling sure that I was in the right vicinity, I decided to stop and inquire.

The lawn surrounding the neat, white house was well-kept. I noticed a large mulberry tree that evidently was quite old as I was walking from my car to the house. "I'm looking for Mrs. Mary Bagby," I said, as the lady opened the door. I didn't have to wait for her answer to know that I was in the right place.

What had not been evident from the outside now met my eyes as I was invited inside. Old fashioned? Beautifully so! Crossing the threshold I saw what made this home different. Overhead were beautifully polished, long, log beams; these were the same logs that had been built into this lovely old home 200 years ago.

"Miss Mary", as she is known to many of her friends, began to tell me about her home in the vicinity of Hollywood Church. "My dad bought this place on Wolf Creek in 1881 from George Graff who had bought it from William Banton. Mr. Banton had aquired it from "Pleasant" Abbitt who had, in turn, bought it from Thomas Trent. It has been in our family for 96 years."

Mrs. Bagby, a daughter of the late Thomas Flourney and Mary Emma Jenkins Covington has lived in this house since she was born on November 19, 1902, nearly 75 years ago. A one of the parties who lived in the house operated the mill. There were times when the customers were few and far between. At such times, the man operating the mill would go back to the house between customers rather than stay down there with nothing to do. It was at this little window he'd sit and watch, hopefully, for a customer.

According to Mrs. Bagby, when her father moved in this house, there was only a kind of little 'flap' of some sort over the window. Mr. Covington immediately put a glass in the little window and it stayed there for a good many years before it met with a mishap! Mrs. Bagby has a great-niece, Julia Wingfield; they have always shared a warm close relationship - - - except one occasion, when Julia was a little girl. This time "Miss Mary" really crossed Julia's path the wrong way, unintentionally,of course! Around the farm house there were kittens . . .lots and lots of kittens! Mrs. Bagby decided she had better do something about the over population of cats and so she drowned some of the little kittens. To me, it's a horrible thought so I can understand the little girl's reaction. When she found out, she got so angry and upset with her aunt that she kicked the glass out of the little window! Her father had to put in another.

A door to the main room of the house didn't have a way to secure it and that day Mrs. Bagby's father, Mr. Covington, moved in he whittled out with his pocket knife, a hand made fastener for the door which is still in use.

Although it is closed now, the huge fireplace in the main room was used full time in days gone by. Some of the former owners had a system whereby they pushed wood, through an opening from outside, into the burning fire. As the log burned away, someone gave it a shove from the outside and there was always wood on the fire.

Several tracts of land have been sold off the original farm; one of these is owned by Vicky and Andy Davis. On this acreage is a cave known as "Looney's Den". There's a story that tells of a deserter from one of the wars who fled to this cave as he left war behind him. Legend has it that he lived and died in this cave.

Miss Mary, a tomboy, loved the out-of-doors. She followed after her brother Frank and his friends at every possible opportunity. I'm sure she has many memories of playing up and down the creek bank and through the woods. Not all of their childhood was 'fun and games' - - - Miss Mary got into mischief too! If you will join me next week I promise I'll tell you about it; every word the truth! I'll be expecting you!

sister, Lucy, six brothers, Joel Martin, Robert, Tommie, Frank, (a baby brother died at birth) and a foster brother, Cecil Sells, made up the family that lived happily in the log house. "Miss Mary", Cecil and Frank are the only surviving members . . .

Dr. Carl A. Collins, a former pastor of the Hollywood Church, of which Mrs. Bagby is a member, had a 'pet project' while he was serving the church. It seems that he was continually, in a good-natured fashion, of course, after "Miss Mary" and Charlie Bagby to go ahead and get married. Seems they had been keeping company for quite some time! They never did, not while Dr. Collins was the pastor.

The next minister to serve the Hollywood Baptist Church was the Rev. Winifred Elder; he has since retired and been replaced by the Rev. Paul Balthaser. It was while Rev. Elder was there, on June 28, 1961 that Charlie and Mary were married. (Mr. Bagby died on November 24, 1967). At a homecoming at the church some years later Dr. Collins was heard to say to the Rev. Elder, "My hat is off to you! I tried my best all the years I was here to get Mary and Charlie married and couldn't do it and you came along and then they got married!!"

"The Mill Place", as Mrs. Bagby's farm was known to earlier owners, was given that name because of the corn mill located down by a creek near the house. In the log part of the house there is a very small window. The story goes that

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SOUTHSIDE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE RECEIVES $360,000 REFUND FROM VEPCO

Through combined efforts of Southside Electric Cooperative officials, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and Virginia Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Federal Power Commission ruled VEPCO to refund their wholesale customers a rebate on a surcharge of the fuel adjustment that was charged the cooperatives from May 1976 to August 1977.

Members of the Cooperative will benefit from the rebate immediately by receiving a credit, for their share of the rebate, about one mill for each kilowatt used during this period, on their current bill.

The past year, from July 1976 through July 1977, Southside Electric Cooperative members have received a million dollars in refunds and capital credits. In July of 1976, the Cooperative received a rebate of $526,000 from VEPCO and inturn, each member of Southside received a share of the rebate. In January 1977, capital credits, in the amount of $152,000, were paid for the years of 1962 and 1963 to those members who qualified. This all adds up to a little over a million dollars, and Southside Electric Cooperative members have benefitted. During the past year, this has meant about a 10% savings per member.

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